



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON VICENZA
UNIT 31401, BOX 80
APO AE 09630

IMEU-VIC-MWA

SEP 19 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Policy Memorandum 06-11, Parental Physical Discipline versus Child Abuse.

1. Confusion exists regarding the difference between parental discipline and child abuse. To clarify, the following standards are established for the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza /Livorno Military communities.

a. The only Parental Physical Discipline tolerated is non-injurious spanking administered with an open hand to the buttocks or the hand of a child over 18 months of age. No objects or weapons may be used, i.e. belts, sticks, spoons, brooms etc. Verbal threats of abuse towards children are reportable to the Family Advocacy Program and Social Work Services.

b. Physical Child Abuse includes, but is not limited to, all non accidental, physical acts administered by a parent or guardian on a child, which leaves a mark, welt or bruise on the child's body. Such acts will be referred to the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) Case Review Committee (CRC) for consideration as child abuse IAW AR 608-18.

2. Severe Physical Child Abuse may result in a determination of assault, which could lead to administrative, non-judicial or judicial action against the perpetrator IAW Art.128 UCMJ and U.S. Vs. Robertson, 36 MJ 190 (CMA 1992).


a. More appropriate methods of parental discipline exist to modify a child's behavior. Your Physician, Social Work Service and FAP/ New Parent Support Program (NPSP) can answer questions on parenting issues and offer information and training on more effective parenting/discipline methods. See Appendix A for alternatives to physical discipline.

b. Commanders and supervisors will inform all soldiers, civilians, contractors and family members of this policy. Together we can make our military communities a safer place for our most defenseless community members.

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3. POC for this action is Ms. Christine Kilbride, Family Advocacy Victim Advocacy Program Manager at DSN 634-7489/7500.



VIRGIL S.L. WILLIAMS
COL, QM
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION

A

APPENDIX A

SUBJECT: Vicenza and Livorno Community Policy- Parental Physical Discipline versus Child Abuse Information sheet

Alternatives to spanking that can be used for particularly adolescents and youth are the following;

- a. Provide rewards when children complete a desired task or positive behavior. The reward does not have to be of monetary value but an activity or privilege that the child values, i.e. getting to spend extra time doing an activity that they enjoy, verbal praises, such as, “great job, wonderful, impressive work good listening, Etc.”
- b. Take away privileges and/or activities that the child enjoys when they do not complete an assigned task or engage in negative behavior.
- c. Create contracts with children to help model positive behavior. Create a contract outlining the expected behaviors (define the behavior and identify the frequency (of the desired behavior) of the child and what privileges the child will receive if completed. Contracts work well with adolescents (grades 7-8) and teenagers.
- d. Create a chart to monitor the child’s behavior. The behavioral chart can be divided up into chores completed and desired behaviors such as not hitting, listening, completing homework, and/or not using inappropriate language. The chart would monitor the child’s desired and undesired behaviors. This can also be used as a team method with siblings. This strategy works better for younger adolescents/ children.
- e. Provide the child with choices, within limits, to help control the situation, not the child.
- f. Talk with your child immediately following the inappropriate behaviors To ensure that he/she understands why he/she is losing privileges.